Examination of Mr Brown

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Collated.

July 1st 1839.

Edward H. Brown Sworn
& Examined by the Com=
=missioner.

I am aged 29 years - my
profession is that of a The=
=oretical & Practical Ma=
=chinist I have been en=
=gaged in that profession
Since I was 18 Years of age.
I was engaged for this
Mint in Philadelphia
on the 1st. May 1837 as
foreman for the Coiners
department & Commenced
my operation on the 12th
of December of that Year.
I remained there until a=
-bout the 1st of July 1838
Mr. Tyler was here while
I was employed & he was
here as Chief Coiner.

I have heard Conversa=
-tions between Mr. Tyler &
Mr. Maxwell on the Sub=
=ject of Southern Officers.
I have heard a conversation
between Mr. Tyler & Max=
-well on the Subject of
the weighed Matter, they
seemed to have the im=
pression that it was their right

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to make the appointment of weigh master. Their desire was that a brother of Mr. Tyler should have the place of Weigh master. About this time Mr. Durel came to the Mint as an applicant for this appointment, I heard Mr. Maxwell remark to Mr. Tyler after seeing Mr. Durel that he supposed Mr. Durels was an inferior frenchman that probably had been a Clerk in some store & could weigh within about 1/4th. I did not know whether or not this remark was made maliciously but afterwards came to the conclusion that it was for this reason that Mr. Maxwell & Tyler seemed to fear that if a number of Creole Officers came into the Mint and were not kept out. They, Maxwell & Tyler would eventually loose their Offices. My opinion is that the intention

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of Maxwell & Tyler to get such subordinate Officers as they could manage & particularly to get in a weigh master. To point a Needle, or some small work of the sort at which he can occupy time he does very well — but as a practical workman he considers him as inefficient as a Theoretical Machinist I consider him as respectable but I consider him inefficient as a practical & general machinist — I have been informed by Tylers former partners that he has failed nearly all his partners, that they were obliged to sell out or get rid of him to save themselves.

I was employed in the Mint here & in Philadelphia with Mr. Tyler about a year & upwards — I was employed by Mr. Tyler for the purpose of learning at the Mint in Philadelphia the operations of the Coining

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department with a view of Coining to New-Orleans to teach the hands here how the Machinery ar=rived in New-Orleans it was in as good order as could be expected coming from such a distance It required some cleaning from Rust to put it in Operation.

It was found neces=sary to make some chan=ges in the building when the Machinery arrived, but I think that one month would have been sufficient to make these alterations in the building.

All the Machinery was here in the building when we came here in December excepting some Tools. These Tools were not however. ne=cessary to put the Coiners department in operation There was nothing wanting that was necessary to com=mence Operations.

Quest. At what period do you conceive the Coiner could with

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reasonable diligence have commenced the regular operation of Coining?

Ans. I think that he might have commenced in three months without any difficulty whatever — Say the 1st of March 1838. even then I think that a month would have been wasted

Quest. Was any machinery Condemned by the Coiner?

Ans. 1st The three Coining presses were condemned,

2d The Melting pots or machine

3d The rolls were condemned.

4th The Steam engine.

5th Some of the cutting presses

6th The Draw-bench excepting the Saws were condemned by Mr. Tyler.

Quest. State the reason why the Coining presses were Condemned & whether the Condemnation was reasonable & if otherwise why not reasonable.

Ans. Mr. Tyler said to me what is your interest is mine & what is mine is yours, Mr. Tyler said to me "I wish

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You to give the men to understand that this Machinery is insufficient & will not answer the purpose for which it was intended; But said he, Mr. Tyler, if I can keep Mr. Peck away, & make some little alteration to suit my purpose then I shall shine

His alteration was to strengthen the Triangle by putting 2 pieces in the centre & the to alter the pivots — a short time after he altered the sockets & Ball of the joint by making them smaller These were all the alterations in the half dime press —

He also altered the triangle in the half dollar press, in the same way. That he had altered the triangle in the half dime press.

The third press was not altered but was put in the machine shop to rust instead of being put up as it ought to have been. The quarter Dollar press now in the machine room is as capable of working as either of the

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other two presses with the exception of the triangle — which is not strong enough to hold the die, a new tri=angle was brought out from Philadelphia for the purpose of replacing in the room of its original triangle — On trial in Philadelphia one made on the same pattern was found to be sufficient=ly strong — I think the above alterations were improper & will eventually prove so, these presses can be used now but I think they will be found to wear the die more than if they had put in the triangle that was brought out, intended to replace the one in the press, it would have been stiffer & would hold the die fast & have prevented its moving — It was much more work to alter the triangle as it now is, than it would have been to finish the new one. I considered it improper to alter the ball & socket as afterwards he Mr. Tyler, was obliged to fix.

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a plan to make it oil itself as it is now fixed, unless altered since I have left; otherwise he would have had to throw it out & adopt it as it was before. As the point of bearing was so much less that it created more friction.

Quest. A ball and socket being now exhibited to the witness & the ball appearing to have lost a considerable portion of its surface towards the extremity of the Circle where it meets the socket, exhibiting a rough & porous appearance, the witness is asked if he knows whether this ball & socket were among those sent out from Philadelphia or were prepared here & to what press they belong?

Ans. I cannot swear whether that ball & socket or either of them were made here, or sent out from Philadelphia, for they can be made so much alike, that they cannot be distinguished one from the

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Other I have no recollection of seeing any crack in the Socket of the one sent out from Philadelphia; & in the One exhibited, there appears to be a crack — The one exhibited appears to belong to the ½ dollar press

Quest. From examination of this Ball & Socket, state to what cause you would attribute the abrasion of the surface of said balls & the rough & damaged condition which ~~they~~ it exhits.

Ans. Occasioned by not keeping it properly oiled it is impossible to tear the surface as it is, if kept properly oiled. — The proof of this is by ascertaining how much was coined before it was thus injured, I believe that the injury was done in less than 10 minutes after the first commencement.

There was some finishing & brightening work done which I considered unnecessary & which

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of spended time to no purpose
I cannot tell how much
time was spent in brighten=
-ing machinery, it was done
to keep the hands from idle=
ness & paid often time at
that — I believe that the coin=
=ing presses were designed by
Mr. Peele & made according
to his plan.

State the reasons assign=
=ed by Mr. Tyler for the
condemnation of the Milling
press or machine?
Ans. That with regard to
the Milling presses there
were no important changes
made to them — if there were
any changes they were dri=
=ving they were taken apart
& cleaned & no alterations to
my knowledge.

When put them in operation
after their connection with
the propelling power was
made?

Quest. Did you consider the
work as stated done to the
Milling press & or machine
as necessary or unnecessary?

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Ans. Whatever might have been done to them was necessary, I think Mr. Peele was the designer of the Milling Press.

Quest. State the reason assigned by Mr. Tyler for the condemnation of the rolls?

Ans. The rolls were badly rusted & had been considerably damaged by the salt water — They were taken into the Machine shop to grind them they were partially ground & made brighter but I question whether bettered in any other way than that their surface was made smoother —

The plan adopted to grind them was considered by myself & by nearly all the machinists as a bad one — Denney & Cavilier disapproved of it & the remaining machinists was not in the shop much of the time.

Quest. was or was not the work done to the rolls by Mr. Tyler necessary or unnecessary?

Ans. The time spent was

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unnecessarily long in doing the work, but the cleaning was necessary. I consider the work badly & unproperly done, I considered it necessary to grind them so far as was necessary to take off the rust but the method adopted was tedious.

Quest. State what reasons were assigned by Mr. Tyler for the Condemnation of the Steam Engine & what work or alterations were put by Mr. Tyler on the Steam Engine?

Ans. There were no alterations made to the Steam Engine but the Engine was out of line by the new found ation on which it was placed. Settling This is common in this Country in Consequence of the softness of the Soil — It took but a short time to put it in line again. In following Mr Tylers mode of putting it in line, it required more time than was necessary but the time was not Long the engine after it was put

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in line worked handsomely—
Quest. Was or was not the
work done to the Engine
in your opinion necessary?
Ans. It was.
Quest. State the reasons as-
signed by Mr. Tyler for
the condemnation of some of
the Cutting presses & what
work or alterations were
put on them by Mr. Tyler?
He stated they were im-
properly fitted & badly fini-
-shed. He took out one
of the guides and had them
polished to a bright polish
for the purpose of showing
the difference of finish & the
stake that holds the punch
was taken out of two of them
& rubbed down to make them
fit better & properly they were
made to fit better or answer
the purpose better, It is ne-
-cessary in all machinery
to take apart some of the
movements, to adjust them
-machinery generally requires
such adjustment more or less
Quest. Was or was not the
work done by Mr. Tyler to

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the Cutting presses, necessary or unnecessary in your opinion?

Ans. Should think it might have been necessary, being usually so to adjust new Machinery

Quest. State the reasons assigned by Mr. Tyler for the condemnation of the draw bench, excepting the Saws & state what work was by him done to, or changes made in the draw bench?

Ans. The fault he found with the bench was not well done, in the manner of finishing. He made some alterations; he took the rolls out, or the Carriers, and introduced a board or plank for the chains to traverse over. The wooden side of the bench were also scraped & rubbed down with oil, in order to make them look better — the heads through which the bar passes were also taken to the shop & new rolls put in as deponent believes

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Quest. State whether in your Opinion the work done by Mr. Tyler to the Drawn bench excepting the Saws, was necessary or unnecessary.

All that was done to the drawing bench was unnecessary. Great pains had been taken to preserve the heads from rust, having been kept at the Mexican Bank from the time of being imported. here the Saws were made by Merrick agnew & Tyler dont know who made the bench but think it was made at the same shop; dont recollect how much time was spent on the draw bench.—

Quest. Do you think the operations of the mint were retarded by Mr. Tyler & if so how much time was lost through his fault?

Answer. Yes— think two Months at the least Calculation was wasted by him & extra wages paid the men employed by him & not half work at that— The machinists had work all the time but the other hands that

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is to say the Convicts & soldiers had not work.

Quest. Have you ever observed any improper conduct by Mr. Tyler with relation to the Matters & Business department & his intercourse or transactions therewith?

Ans. The most improper thing witness has known on this subject was that they passed the Bullion back & forwards between them without the warrant of the Superintendent which witness knows they did not have. On one occasion witness was asked by Mr. Tyler if he, witness had not some business in the City, at that time they had been Coining for some time. It was some time about 1 June 1838 all they had Coined was to no purpose. Mr. Tyler had a Considerable amount of Coin & planchets on hand that was not correct some of the pieces, both planchets & Coin & strips were too heavy & some too light. Deponent agreeable to Mr. Tylers orders

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went out into the City, Tyler telling him he would pay him for his time & Deponent should not loose any time by going he told witness he might go out for the remainder of the day, as no more would be coined that day Deponent went out agreeably to his or=ders, and after being out a few minutes, mistrusted what might be the Case, De=ponent came in by the room over the Weighs room a few days before there had been a hole cut through the arch over the weigh room — to pass a rode to hold the scales — Deponent looked through the hole & saw Mr Lilly, Mr Tyler and Mr Maxwell engaged in weighing the strips, Blan=chets and coins aforemen=tioned as being imperfect Deponent suspposed the reasons why he, Deponent, was sent out was. that he should not know of what was doing Mr. Tyler got Charles Moore, a Blacksmith at the Mint to help Carry these articles, who

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had never been so employed before, to the Weigh room, the Object was to have them remelted into ingots, so as to recoin them — Knows nothing further positive about this particular transaction — Deponent does not know whether the passing backwards & forwards of the bullion, that afterwards took place was agreeably to Law or not. She is unable to state — But deponent believes that there was a continual shuffling backwards & forwards unbeknowing to any one else but those two that is Mr. Tyler & Mr. Maxwell.

By shuffling Deponent means, that the Courier made a mistake, the planchets would neither weigh nor count Correctly, they would be either too heavy or too light, then it was returned by Mr. Tyler to Mr. Maxwell & remelted into ingots & then returned back to Mr. Tyler — Deponent believes all this was done without the knowledge

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of the Superintendent & fur-
ther believes that they were
ashamed to let him know
it.

Quest. Please state if you
know any thing in relation
to a plan of the Carrier to
keep the assayers out of the
Treasurers office at any time
& for what purpose?

Ans. Mr. Snyder expressed
himself to me by saying
that he wished he could get
some plan to keep Dr. Hoot out
of the Treasurer's office, he
was always in it. he stated to
me he would give him some
pieces to assay that would
keep him out, a short time
after this took place there
was an accident happened
in annealing some blankets
these blankets were in a
cylinder 3 inches diameter
2 ft. long they were made
of Copper & brazed with
hard solder many days
to braze them it acted as a
Current, which caused the
pieces to stick & run together with
less heat than would otherwise

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have taken place if there had been no base in the Cylinder they were melted & run together so that in a part of the pieces the portion of alloy was nearly burned out so as to make the silver too near fine silver apart at one end of the box, or cylinder was not heated enough to injure them while the other end was red hot. These pieces were known to be spotted as to standard some above Standard & some below when I was taking them pieces out of the box Mr. Tyler came into the room & examined them taking some below & some above standard of which we had no reason to doubt. Saying to me— do you think that will not answer to keep the D. out of the Treasurer's office. told him that part of them, the alloy, was all burned out & that it would be of no use & he said that was no matter it would keep him, the Doctor out of the

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Treasurer's Office. He took a hand full of them & went to his room & afterwards I saw them or other pieces like them, they could not be told apart done up in small parcels & numbered & I suppose they were sent to the assayer to be assayed for the purpose of keeping him out of the Treasurer's Office — I believe they were the same planchets before spoken of

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Quest. State any thing that you know as to Philas B Tyler brother of the Coiner being employed one month or thereabouts in making drawings for a Mr. Marshall of Philadelphia when he was receiving at the same time full pay & extra pay for his services as a Machinist or workman in this Branch Mint?

Ans. Mr. Philas B. Tyler the Brother of the Coiner & Mr. Tyler the Coiner were both engaged more or less in making these drawings

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Mr. Tyler designed them & Mr. Phelas B. Tyler made the drawings — Mr. Tyler always, when P. Hart came into the room would immediately take him out of the room to prevent his asking what the drawings were, Mr. Tyler was very particular about any one knowing of this transaction They were 5 months & full three quarters of that time employed

These drawings were for a lathe & made expressly for the Carrollton Rail road, Mr. Marshall was the one who was to build the lathe — I am positive that Phelas B Tyler got extra pay that month as I believe this time should have been occupied in getting the machinery in operation ready for the shop The business was prolonged & kept back for want of knowledge by the workmen to go on with the business